

# Fairbury, Illinois In the Civil War for



## The Livingston County Historical Society

Fairbury,  
Illinois, in  
the Civil War

Dale C. Maley



By: Dale C. Maley

Fairbury, Illinois

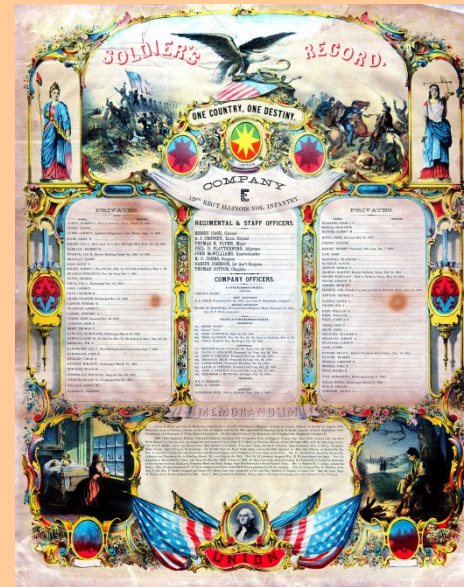
March 2019



John Kring Jr.

# What Prompted Writing this Book?

- Completed *Fairbury in the World Wars*
  - Why not do Civil War also?
- Discovered 1863 Civil War poster
  - 129<sup>th</sup> Infantry Company E
- Did not know much about Fairbury's role in the Civil War
- Was familiar with Andersonville Prison
  - Great Grandfather survived 5 months there.



Fairbury,  
Illinois in the  
World Wars

Dale Maley



# Civil War Book Research Process

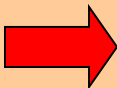
State of Illinois  
Civil War  
Database

**~300 Veterans!**

**MASTER EXCEL  
SPREADSHEET  
-VETERAN INFO**



**1863 Poster**

-Fairbury  
-Fairburg  
-Avoca Township  
-Indian Grove Twp.  
-Belle Prairie Twp.

1878 Liv. Co.  
History Book

-War record of  
local units  
-Travels

**Fairbury,  
Illinois, in  
the Civil War**

Dale C. Maley



**Other References**

-Fairbury Blade archives  
-Google searches  
-Ancestry.com

**Travel Maps of  
2 Fairbury  
Key Units**

# State of Illinois Civil War Database

<https://www.ilsos.gov/isaveterans/civilmustersrch.jsp>

Can also Google “state of Illinois Civil War database” and find it.

— I will email out this presentation after the meeting, so you will have the Internet address—



# OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE  
SECRETARY OF STATE



Search Cyberdriveillinois.com



Home > Departments > Archives > Databases > Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls

## Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls Illinois State Archives

Compiled by Fred Delap in cooperation with the Illinois State Archives

### Entering Search Criteria

Enter text in any field to restrict the search to only those records which CONTAIN your text in that field. Enter the soldier's name in the format: last name comma space first name space middle initial (for example, Smith, John D). The first name and middle initial may be omitted to accomplish a surname search. Searches are not case sensitive: you may use any combination of upper and lower case letters. The following types of searches may be conducted:

- To locate a soldier, enter the name in the format: **last name** *comma space* **first name** *space* **middle initial** (for example, Smith, John D). The first name and middle initial may be omitted to accomplish a surname search.

**Name of Veteran**

**Unit**

**Company**

Company must be combined with Unit

**Residence**

---

Submit

Reset

Can search by:

-Name

-Residence

-Unit & Company

## Name of Veteran

Virgin

## Unit

Select One ▼

## Company

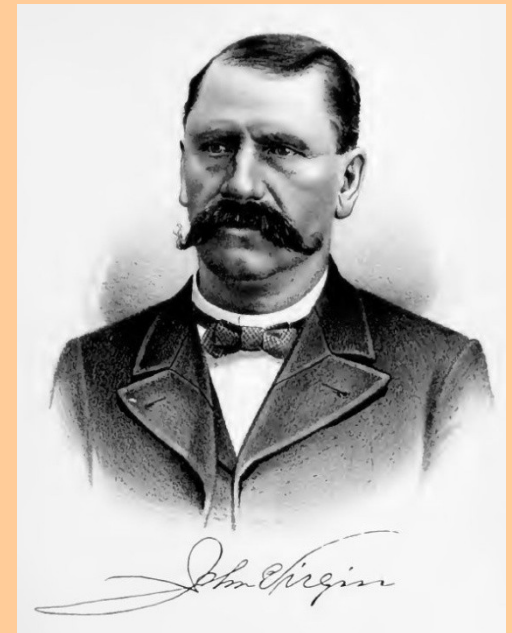
Select One ▼

Company must be combined with Unit

## Residence

Submit

Reset



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Search Cyberdriveillinois.com



Home > Departments > Archives > Databases > Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls

## Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls Illinois State Archives

Search Criteria: **Virgin**

Name	Rank	Company	Unit	Residence
<a href="#">VIRGIN, JOHN</a>	SGT	K	3 IL US CAV	LIVINGSTON CO, IL
<a href="#">VIRGIN, JOHN D</a>	PVT	F	44 IL US INF	ASHLEY, WASHINGTON CO, IL
<a href="#">VIRGIN, ROBERT</a>	PVT		5 IL US CAV	MASCOUTAH, ST CLAIR CO, IL
<a href="#">VIRGIN, WILLIAM D</a>	PVT	F	44 IL US INF	ASHLEY, WASHINGTON CO, IL



# Illinois Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls Detail Report

Search Criteria: **Virgin**

Name	VIRGIN, JOHN
Rank	SGT
Company	K
Unit	3 IL US CAV

## Personal Characteristics

Residence	LIVINGSTON CO, IL
Age	23
Height	6' 2
Hair	DARK
Eyes	BLUE
Complexion	LIGHT

Marital Status	SINGLE
Occupation	FARMER
Nativity	CARROLL CO, IN
Service Record	
Joined When	AUG 7, 1861
Joined Where	FAIRBURY, IL
Joined By Whom	CPT CARNAHAN
Period	3 YRS
Muster In	AUG 24, 1861
Muster In Where	CAMP BUTLER, IL
Muster In By Whom	
Muster Out	SEP 5, 1864
Muster Out Where	SPRINGFIELD, IL

Muster Out	SEP 5, 1864
Muster Out Where	SPRINGFIELD, IL
Muster Out By Whom	LT SUMNER
Remarks	MUSTERED OUT AS ORDERLY SERGEANT

JOHN VIRGIN, dealer in French horses, Fairbury; born in Tippecanoe Co., Ind., Aug. 10, 1838; removed to Illinois in the Fall of 1855, locating in Eppard's Point Township, this county. Served as Orderly Sergeant of Co. K, 3d Ill. Cav., from August, 1861, to August, 1864. After his return from the army, he engaged in farming in Avoca Township, removing to Fairbury, his present home, in the Spring of 1868. Owns 300 acres of land, valued at \$3,000, and city property valued at \$2,000. Married in the Spring of 1865 to Miss Serepta J. McDowell; she was born in Avoca Township, this county. Mr. V. is President of the Fairbury Union Agricultural Society, and has filled that position since the date of its organization. He was appointed Postmaster at Fairbury, May 17, 1878.

- Checked for biography in 1878, 1888, or 1909 Vol II Livingston County History books
- Included bio in the book
- Sometimes found obit in Fairbury Blade archives online
- Included obit in book also

November 23, 1890  
Fairbury Blade

## **JOHN VIRGIN DEAD**

### **Suddenly Called While Attending a Meeting of the National French Draft Horse Association**

#### **Funeral Services in the City Today**

Word was received here Tuesday evening of the death of John Virgin. Although he had been in poor health for some time past, his death was not expected and caused a shock to the community.

Mr. Virgin was presiding over a meeting of the National French Draft Horse Association which was being held at the Sherman House, Chicago, he being vice-president of that organization. Heart failure, supposed to have been brought on by the excitement of the debate on one of the questions before the meeting, was the immediate cause of his death.

The debate had just closed when he was taken ill and ask to be excused, and was assisted to a room in the hotel and physicians summoned. Their efforts were unavailing, however, and he passed away a half-hour later.

During his absence, the association had elected him vice-president and the members were cheering his election when the word was brought that he was dead.



Mr. Virgin was born in the Carroll County, Indiana, August 10, 1838. In 1854, he came with his parents to Illinois settling in Eppards Point township, where he lived on the farm until 1870 when he moved to Fairbury.

January 26, 1865, he was united in marriage to Serepta J. McDowell. Four children were born to them, two of whom, Mrs. A. Cooley, and Miss Daisy, together with the bereaved wife survive him.

The family moved to Chicago in 1896, Mr. Virgin being appointed to purchasing agent for the Garfield Park stables by Governor Tanner, which position he was filling at the time of his death.

He was a veteran of the War of Rebellion, enlisting as a member of Company K. 3d Illinois Cavalry, which started from this city August 7, 1861, and served for three years, being promoted to Orderly Sergeant in which capacity he acted in nearly three years.

Few men have taken as active and prominent part in the political and business affairs of this state as Mr. Virgin. He was a prominent member of the State Board of Agriculture and Chairman of the Special Committee which drafted the plans for the Illinois State building at the World's Fair and a director of the agricultural display at the fair.

He was a pioneer breeder of French draft horses and the first one to introduce that breed in Livingston County, following the importing business many years. He served as general superintendent of the State Fair and the fat stock show. He always took an active part in the affairs of his home town and was one of the prime movers in organizing the Fairbury Fair, serving as President of the association several terms. A staunch Republican, taking an active interest in the affairs of his party until his death.

Mr. Virgin was a man whom even his enemies admired. Active and aggressive in pushing forward all things which he had to do, and even his declining years and his continued ill health failed to break his vigorous spirit. His influence was always for the good and he will be missed and mourned by all whom he came into contact.

He was a charter member of Post No. 75 and according to his request during life he was laid to rest under their auspices. The pall bearers were all the members of his old company and were: Thomas Day, George Lynn, A.F. Filley, John Zimmerman, J.W. Hoover, Pontiac: T.M Thornton, Saunemin: G.B. Brownson, T.F. Baker.

The honorary pall bearers were John Kring, Palsey Clary, Capt. Baker, R.C. Straight, Joel Strawn, Ed Hodgson, E.S. Fucsman, Horace Babcock.

The funeral services were held this afternoon from the M.E. Church of which he had been a member for over twenty years. Rev. M.A. Head preached the sermon. The church was crowded with his old friends and neighbors in this city and prominent people with whom he had been identified from various parts of the state. The remains were laid to rest in the Fairbury cemetery.

Geo. H. Madden of Mendota and D.W. Vittum of Canton, Illinois, attended Mr. Virgin's funeral. Mr. Madden represented the State Board of Agriculture and Mr. Vittum the French Draft Horse Association.

# Book Design

## Table of Contents

### [Chapter 1](#)

Fairbury Prior to the Civil War

### [Chapter 2](#)

Reference Materials Searched

### [Chapter 3](#)

One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Infantry Company E

### [Chapter 4](#)

3rd Cavalry Company K

### [Chapter 5](#)

Fairbury People Who Gave Their Lives in Service of Their Country in the Civil War

### [Chapter 6](#)

Individual Service Records of Fairbury People Who Served in the Civil War

### [Chapter 7](#)

Prisoners of War

### [Chapter 8](#)

Civil War Data Analysis

### [Chapter 9](#)

Grand Army of the Republic

### [Chapter 10](#)

Civil War Pensions

2 Principal  
Fairbury  
units



GAR



# Book Design

Not Fairbury,  
but such an  
interesting  
story, had to  
include it in  
the book ☺



Started with  
129<sup>th</sup> Co. E,  
but became  
recruiter of  
former slaves  
to join Union  
Army.



## Chapter 11

Gatherings of Fairbury Area Civil War Veterans

## Chapter 12

Albert Cashier

## Chapter 13

Documents at the Fairbury Echoes Museum

## Chapter 14

James T. Ayers

## Chapter 15

A.J. Cropsey Biography



- Cropsey Twp.
- Cropsey village,
- Founding of Fairbury

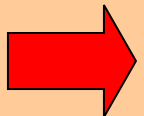
## Chapter 16

Sole Confederate

## Chapter 17

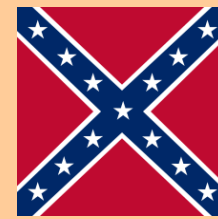
Summary

Sole Confederate





# Sole Confederate



One of the sources reviewed for writing this book was the 1929 book ***Roll of Honor: Record of Burial Places of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Army Nurses of All Wars of the United States Buried in the State of Illinois Volume II.***

This book is very thorough and includes Fairbury's main cemetery, Graceland, and also contains Avoca Cemetery, the Catholic Cemetery, Cooper Cemetery, and some smaller ones.

This book notes that Confederate soldier Madison Kirschner is buried in Fairbury's Graceland Cemetery. Using Ancestry.com, it was found the 1929 book spelled the gentleman's name incorrectly. His real name was Madison M. Kershner. He was born in West Virginia, and served in the Confederate Army.

Mr. Kershner is the only Confederate soldier buried in a Livingston County cemetery per the 1929 book.

# Sole Confederate

Friday, January 18, 1918.

## M. M. KERSHNER.

M. M. Kershner passed away very suddenly at his home, 606 East Elm street, in this city Saturday afternoon, January 12, at 4 o'clock, death being due to heart trouble. He was in his usual good health and seemed happy and cheerful up to the moment of passing.

Mr. Kershner was born in Monroe county, West Virginia, December 28, 1844, and at the time of his death was aged 74 years and 14 days. He came to this city with his family about two years ago. He was a man who made many friends during his short residence here. He was a member of the local Baptist church and an honest and upright man.

He leaves a wife and nine children, five of whom were able to attend the funeral services. Because of weather conditions those further away were unable to be present. The surviving children are: Frank and Lyde, at home; Grace, of Decatur; Charles, Carroll, Ia.; Leslie, Oakland, Cal.; Ira, Los Angeles, Cal.; Gaston, Ft. Smith, Ark.; Hugh, Detroit, Minn.; Horace, Winslow, Ill.

The funeral services were held at the family home Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. E. H. Lyle, assisted by Rev. C. S. Davies, officiating. Interment was in the Fairbury cemetery.

No mention in Obit about fighting for the Confederacy.

“History is written by the victors.”  
—Winston Churchill

# 1878 History Book

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY WAR HISTORY AND RECORD.

### ABBREVIATIONS.

Adj.	Adjutant.	e.	enlisted.
Art.	Artillery.	excd.	exchanged.
Col.	Colonel.	inf.	infantry.
Capt.	Captain.	kld.	killed.
Corp.	Corporal.	m. o.	mustered out.
Comsy.	Commissary.	prmtd.	promoted.
comd.	commissioned.	prisr.	prisoner.
cav.	cavalry.	rect.	recruit.
captd.	captured.	Regt.	Regiment.
consdn.	consolidation.	resd.	resigned.
disab.	disabled.	Sergt.	Sergeant.
disd.	discharged.	wd.	wounded.

### ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY- NINTH INFANTRY.

President Lincoln had issued his call for three hundred thousand volunteers, and loyal men, all over the North, were enlisting in the service of their country. The idea that seventy-five thousand men could crush the rebellion in three months had exploded; and the call of the President met a hearty response in Livingston County. Professional men, mechanics and farmers left their families and their business, and enrolled their names "for three years or during the war." Company A was raised in Pontiac, Reading, Odell, Long Point and other towns; Company B, in Dwight and vicinity; Company C, largely in Rook's Creek, Nevada, Odell and other townships; Company E, in Fairbury, and Company G, mainly in Pontiac and vicinity. Of course it will not be understood that other townships are excluded from the credit of representation in this regiment; but, on account of an unfortunate method which prevailed, of giving the name of the post office, instead of the township, the actual resi-

Lieutenant, which offices they respectively held, without succession, until they were mustered out.

The regiment was organized September 8, 1862, with George P. Smith, of Dwight, as Colonel; Henry Case, of Winchester, Lieutenant Colonel; A. J. Cropsey, of Fairbury, Major; Philip D. Plattenburg, of Pontiac, Adjutant; W. C. Gwinn, Regimental Quartermaster; Dr. Darius Johnson, of Pontiac, Assistant Surgeon, and subsequently promoted to Surgeon, with Dr. O. S. Wood as his Assistant, and Rev. Thomas Cotton, of Pontiac, Chaplain; and non-commissioned officers, I. G. Mott, of Pontiac, Hospital Steward, to which office John A. Fellows, of Pontiac, succeeded on Mott's death; W. H. H. McDowell, of Fairbury, Sergeant Major, and George W. Quackenbosh, Quartermaster Sergeant.

The regiment remained in camp, at Pontiac, until the 22d of September, when it was ordered to Louisville, Ky., where it joined the Thirty-eighth Brigade of the Twelfth Division, under Maj. Gen. Gilbert. On the 3d of October, they were ordered forward, in pursuit of Gen. Bragg, who was threatening Louisville. His retreat led them by

Companies:

A-Pontiac,  
Reading, Odell,  
Long Point

B-Dwight

C-Rook's Creek,  
Nevada, Odell

E-Fairbury

G-Pontiac

# 1878 History Book

Fairbury  
129<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Co. E.

## Company E.

Capt. Cyrus N. Baird, e. Sept. 8, 1862; m. o. June 8, 1865.  
First Lieut. John F. Blackburn, e. Sept. 8, 1862; resd. Feb. 26, 1863.

First Lieut. Benj. F. Fitch, e. as Second Lieut. Sept. 8, 1862; m. o. June 8, 1865.

Second Lieut. Wm. H. H. McDowell, e. as private Aug. 8, 1862; prmtd. to Sergt. Maj.; prmtd. to Second Lieut. Feb. 26, 1863; m. o. June 8, 1865.

First Sergt. Smith Olney, e. Aug. 8, 1862; absent on furlough since Oct. 20, 1864.

Sergt. Isaac Vail, e. Aug. 9, 1862; m. o. June 8, 1865.

Sergt. John Cumpton, e. Aug. 9, 1862; died at Louisville, Ky., Oct. 23, 1862.

Sergt. Thomas Clawson, e. Aug. 8, 1862; died at Gallatin, Tenn., Feb. 4, 1863.

Sergt. Otis S. Mason, e. Aug. 9, '62; m. o. May 25, '65. wd.

Corp. Bennett Hall, e. Aug. 8, 1862; m. o. June 8, 1865, as Sergt.

Corp. David E. Straight, e. Aug. 6, 1862; disd. Oct. 26, '64, for promotion in U. S. Col. Troops.

# 1878 History Book

Fairbury  
129<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Co. E.

Gallatin was  
deadliest battle  
for the Fairbury  
129<sup>th</sup> Infantry  
Co. E.



master sergeant.

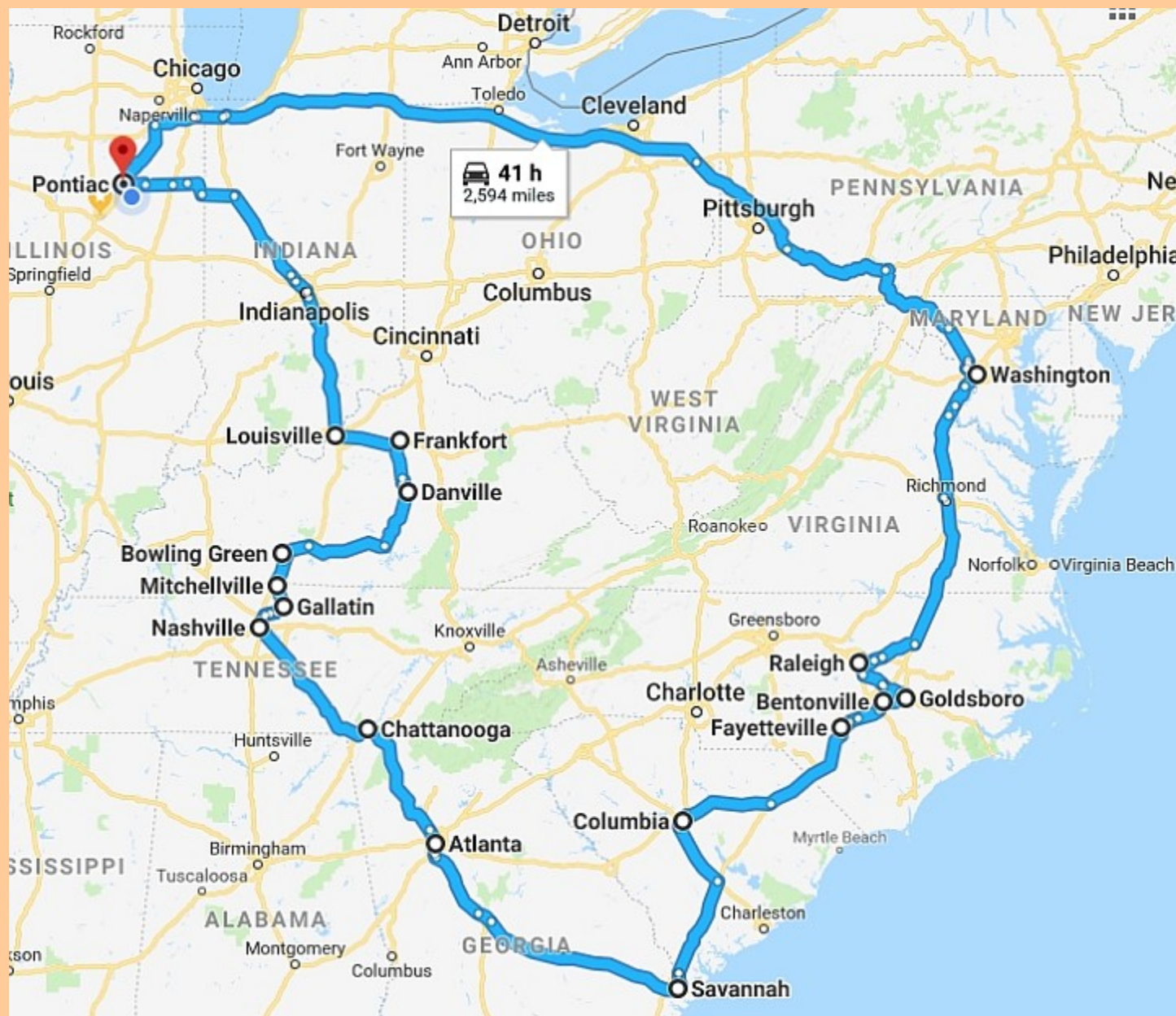
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Can  
map  
their  
route  
through  
the  
whole  
Civil  
War!



# 1878 History Book

129<sup>th</sup>  
Co. E



# 1878 History Book

- All 3 Livingston County History Books have been digitized into word searchable PDF files
- Using Edit – Find feature in PDF file, can search 6,000 pages in just 2 minutes !!
- Can download these 3 files from the Livingston County Historical Society web site for free

# 1878 History Book



<https://livchs.org/livingston-county-history-books>



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Livingston County, Illinois"  
(1887)

Download "Portrait and  
Biographical Album of Livingston  
County" (1888)

Download "Historical  
Encyclopedia of Illinois and  
History of Livingston County,  
Vol. 2" (1909)

## Livingston County Historical Books

All three of these books about Livingston County's history have been digitized and are word searchable PDF files. These books can be downloaded using the buttons to the left to aid in your research.

- *The History of Livingston County, Illinois* by Le Baron (1878)
- *Portrait and Biographical Album of Livingston County* by Chapman Brothers (1888)
- *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Livingston County, Vol. 2* by Strawn, Johnson, and Franzen (1909)

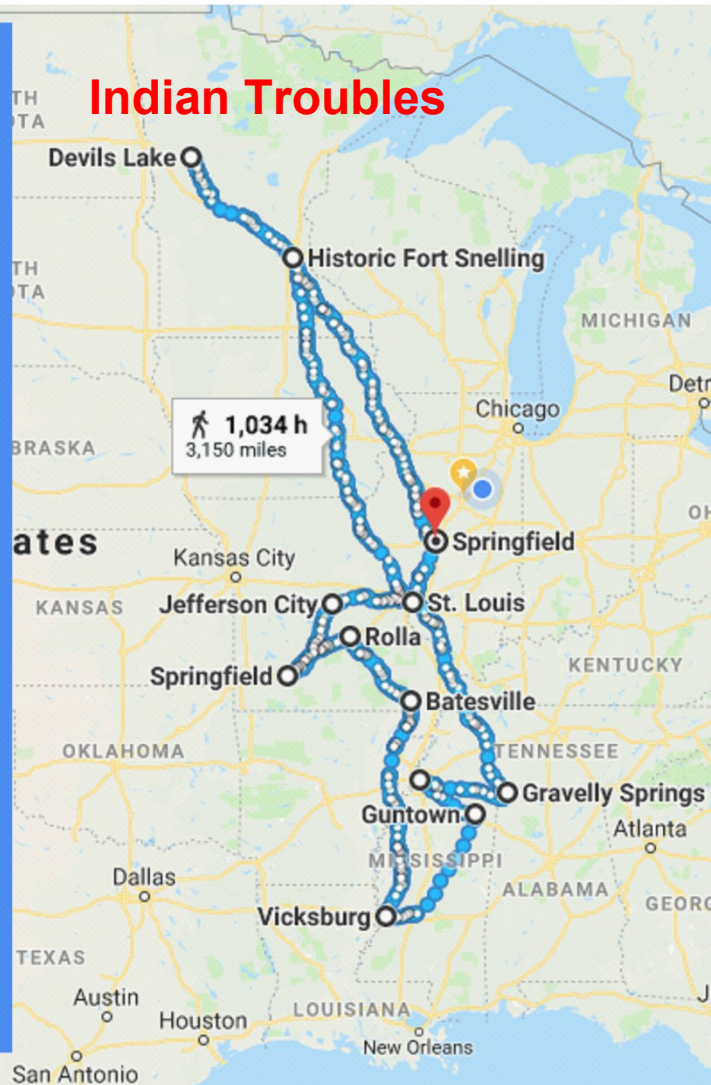
Once you click on the button on the left, then click on the 3 dots in the upper RH corner to open an option to download the PDF file. When you open the PDF file, use Edit - Find option to get a word searchable text box. Enter your search word, then click Next. This will search the entire PDF file for the search word you entered.



# 1878 History Book

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Company K Civil War Travel Route

- Springfield, Illinois
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Jefferson City, Missouri
- Springfield, Missouri
- Rolla, Missouri
- Batesville, Ash Hill Township, MO 63932
- Vicksburg, Mississippi
- Guntown, Mississippi 38849
- Memphis, Tennessee
- Gravelly Springs, Alabama 35633
- St. Louis, Missouri
- Devils Lake, Minnesota
- Historic Fort Snelling, 200 Tower Avenue
- Springfield, Illinois



# Fairbury in the Civil War

- Population of Fairbury in 1860
  - was just founded 3 years earlier in 1857
  - 262 in the city per the 1860 US census
  - but about 600 farmers
  - total population of about 730
- Very surprised to find 301 veterans served
  - includes
    - cities of Fairbury & Fairburg
    - Avoca township
    - Indian Grove Township
    - Belle Prairie

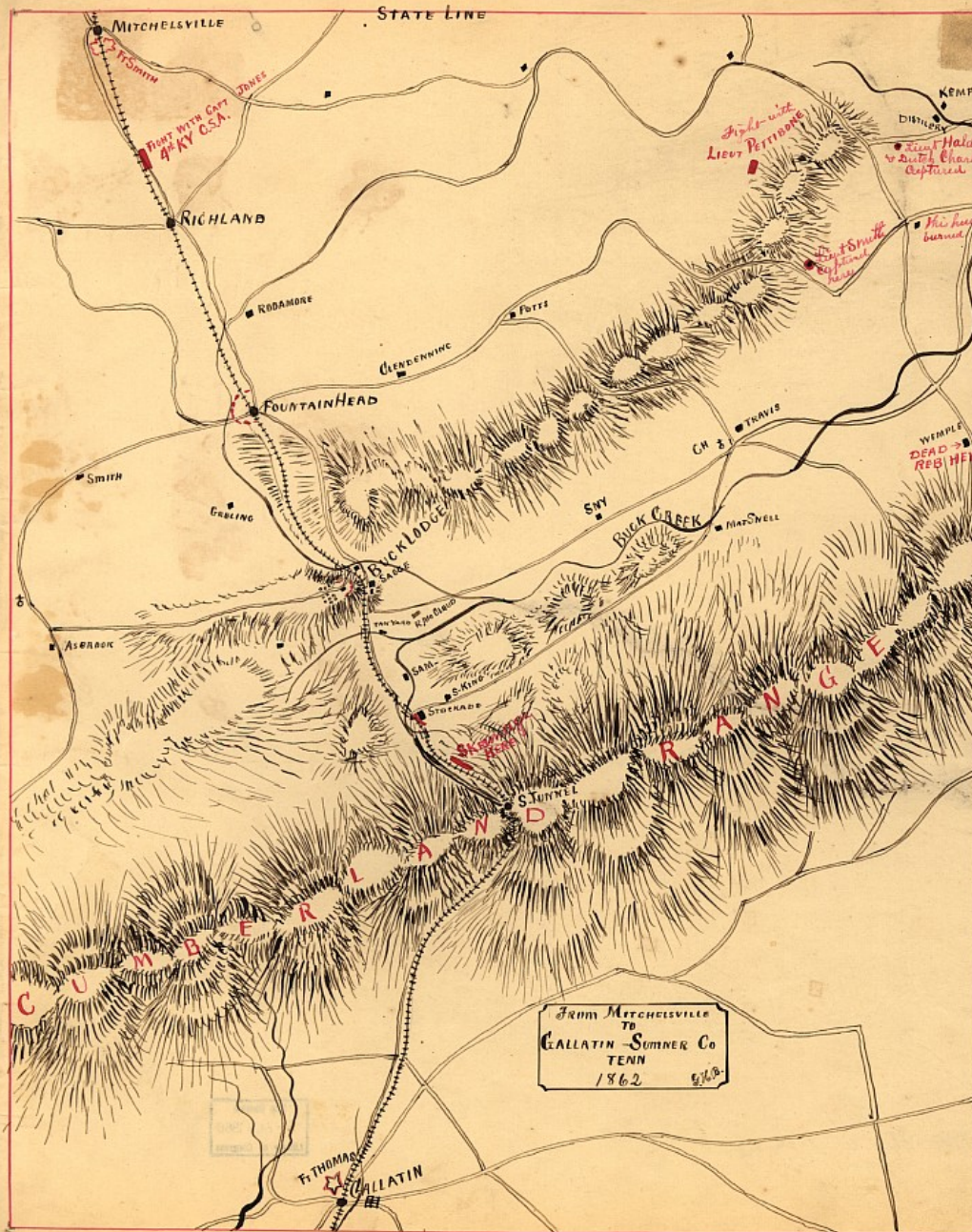
# Fairbury in the Civil War

- About 60% of Fairbury veterans served in just 2 military units
  - 129th Infantry Company E (107 men)
  - 3rd Cavalry (90 men)
- The 129th Company E was commanded by A.J. Cropsey
  - They fought primarily in the southern states south of Illinois
  - Vicksburg, TN
  - Gallatin, TN
    - most deadly battle
    - train cross-roads
    - Confederates blew up one of the tunnels
    - suffered 6 casualties and many wounded
  - Participated in Sherman's March to the Sea
  - Big parade in Washington, DC after war ended
- The 3rd Cavalry Company K
  - Also fought primarily in the states south of Illinois
  - Vicksburg
  - Guntown, Miss
  - send to Minnesota near end of war for some Indian problems



# Gallatin Battle Map

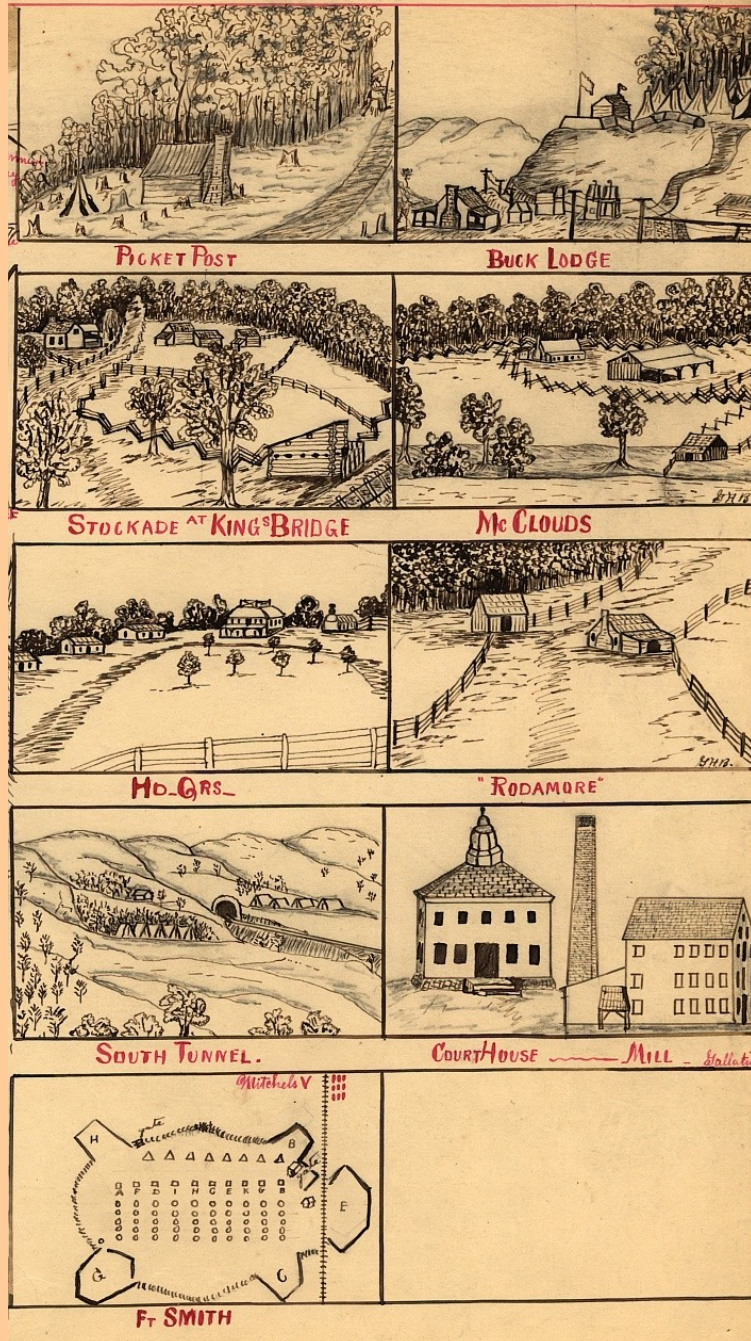
Library of  
Congress





# Gallatin Battle

## Library of Congress



Fairbury  
men killed at  
South  
Tunnel

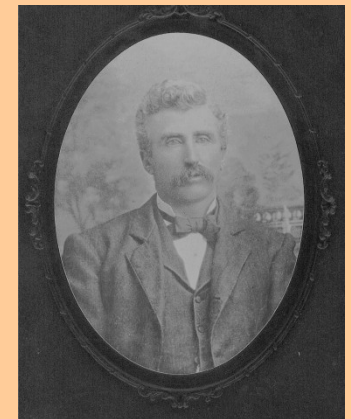
# Fairbury in the Civil War

- There was a total of 31 casualties suffered by Fairbury area veterans.
  - This is a casualty rate of about 10%.



# Fairbury Prisoners of War

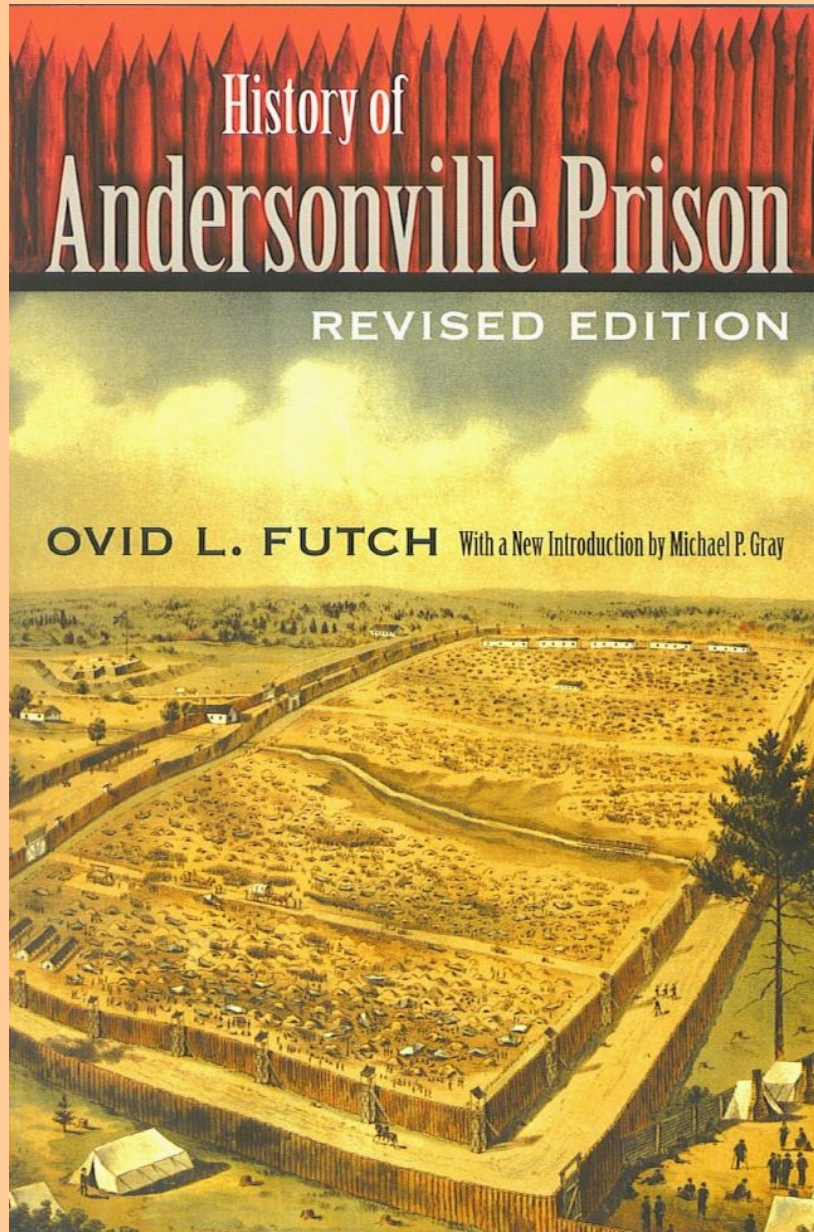
- Isaac Spangler, and Jacob Tucker were held briefly as prisoners of war.
  - Both were released as a result of prisoner exchanges.
- Alexander Easton was held as a prisoner of war at both Libby Prison in Richmond
  - Was also held at a facility at Salisbury, North Carolina.
- Pulaski Mussey, James Wright, and Alexander Easton were all held at Andersonville Prison.
  - Andersonville was worst prisoner of war camp in Civil War
  - about 30% of the Union Soldiers held there died
  - Confederacy could not provide enough food for their fighting soldiers, let alone enough food for prisoners of war
  - After the war was over, Andersonville commander Henry Wirz was charged with war crimes
    - only person charged from the Civil War
    - Fairbury soldier James Wright served as a witness at Henry Wirz's trial in Washington, DC,
    - Wirz was found guilty and hung
- I am very familiar with Andersonville Prison
  - my great-great grandfather, William Hughes Cornwell survived 5 months in captivity there
  - he was from Princeville, north of Peoria



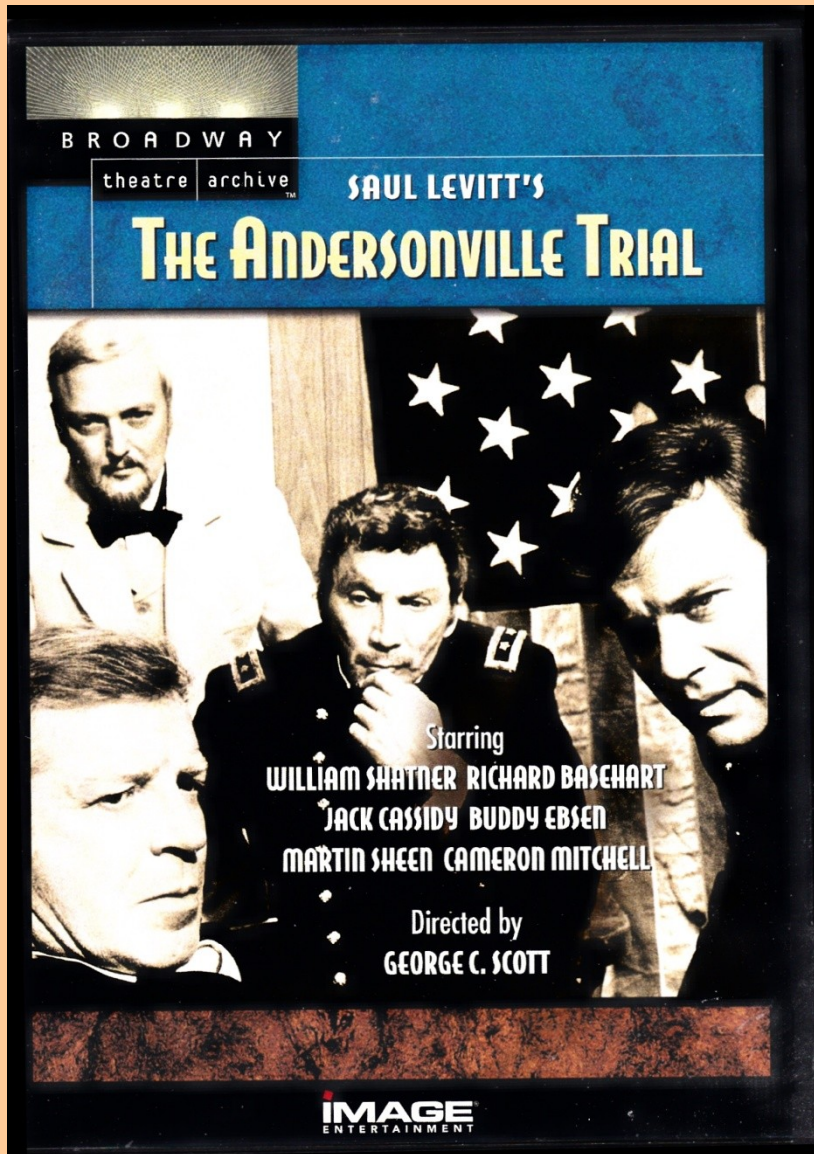
William Hughes Cornwell C. 1874



# Andersonville, Georgia



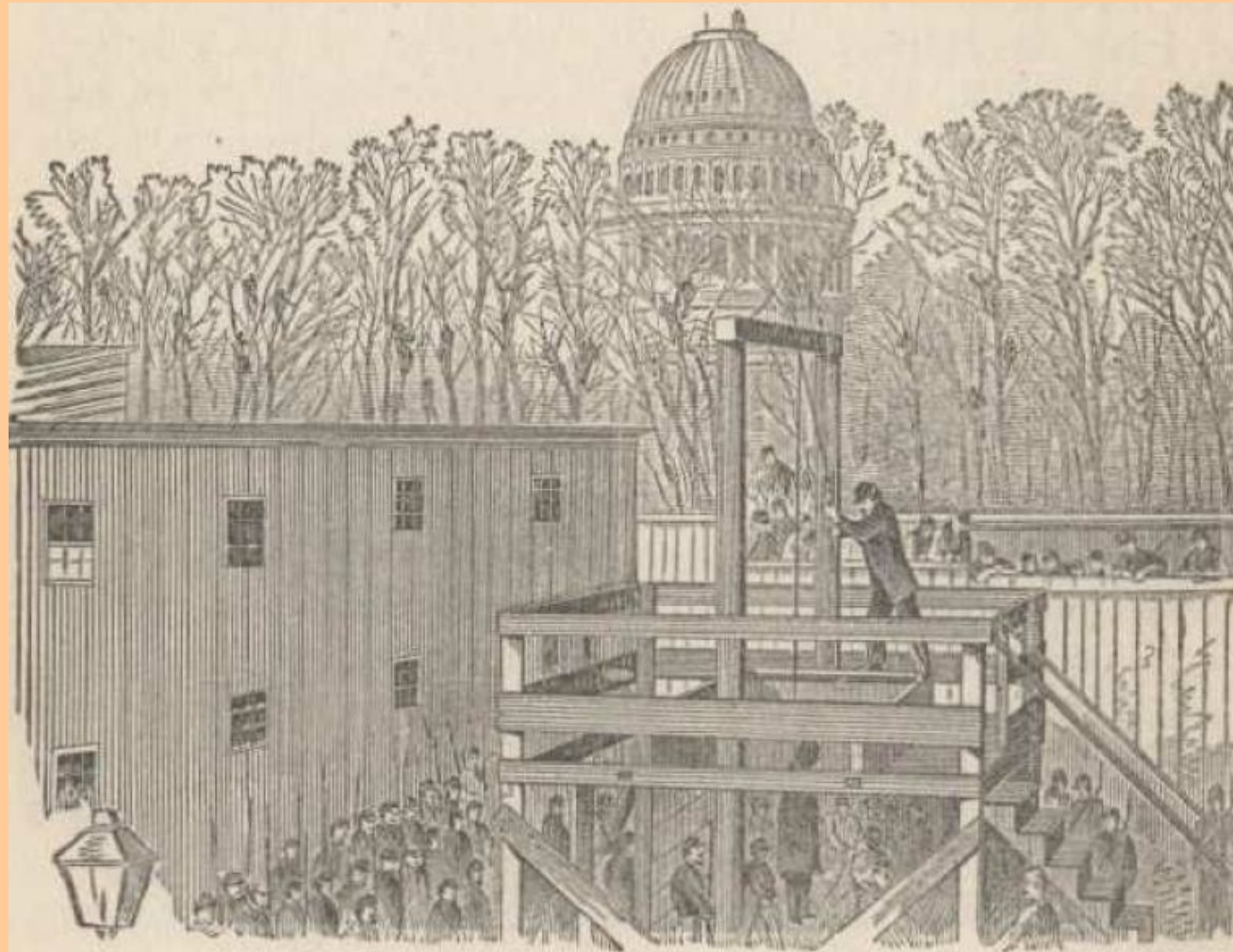
# Andersonville, Georgia



Young William  
Shatner of Star  
Trek fame



# Fairbury in the Civil War



EXECUTION OF WIRZ — LOWERING THE BODY.

(From a sketch in Harper's Weekly made on the spot.)

# Fairbury in the Civil War

## •Substitutes

- During the Civil War, it was an acceptable practice to pay a substitute to take your place as a soldier in the Union Army.
- In the 1888 history book, it is noted that Aaron Becker, Belle Prairie Township, paid \$1,000 in 1863 for a substitute to take his place in the Union Army.
- That would be equivalent to \$20,230 in 2017 dollars.
- you did not collect your \$1,000 until after the war
- The two Putnam brothers, George and Henry, were both supposed to serve in the Union Army as substitutes.
  - Neither one made it to their assigned Union military units.
  - Their father reported them both killed in the Civil War in the 1878 history book and in his obituary.
  - It is a mystery what happened to the two brothers

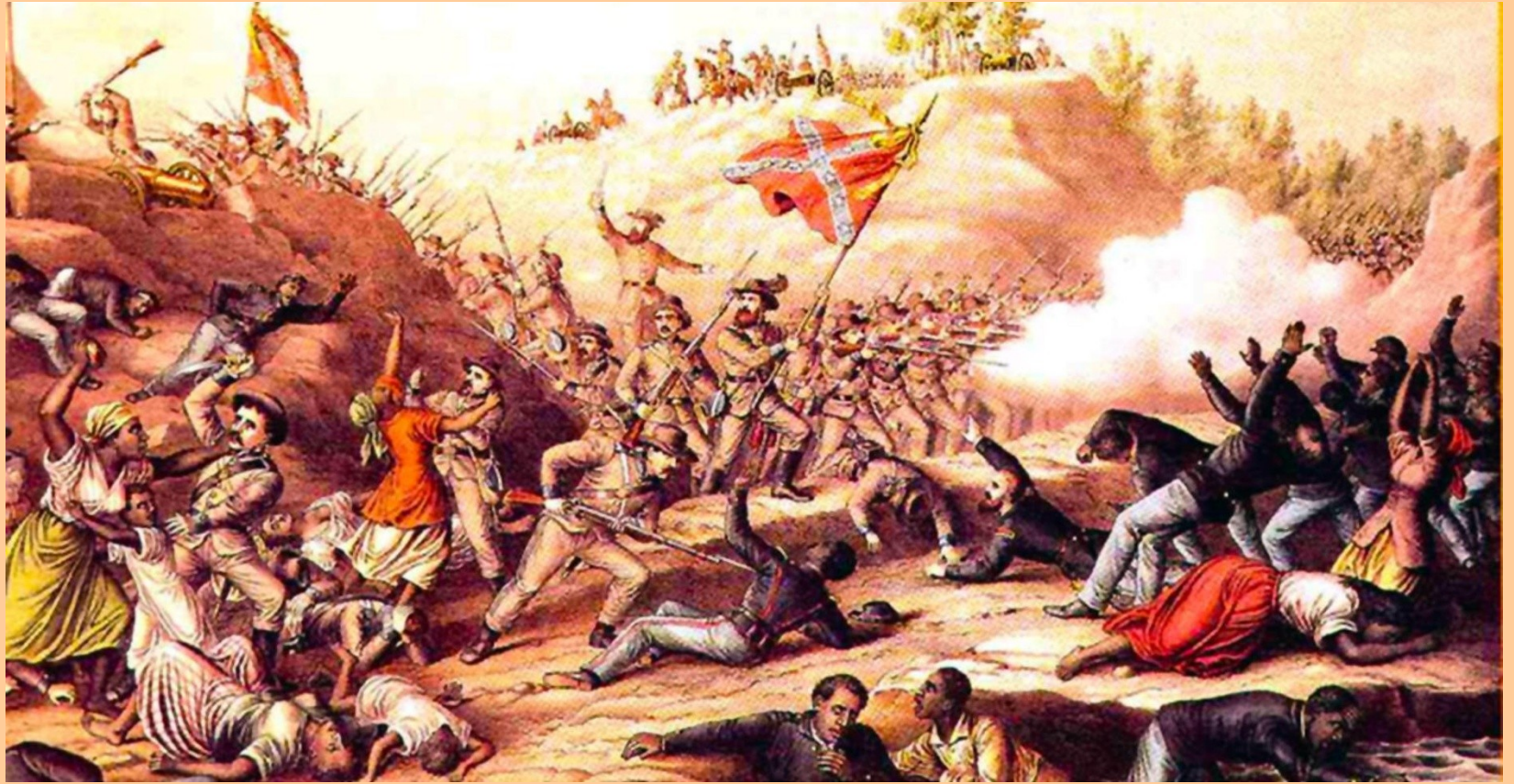




# Fairbury in the Civil War

- Massacre at Fort Pillow
  - very controversial battle
  - A Union Army unit was made up of mostly black soldiers
  - alleged that Confederates massacred all Union soldiers, even when they tried to surrender
  - Fairbury soldier James T. Ayers was given assignment to recruit more blacks into the Union Army
    - Found poem he wrote about the Fort Pillow Massacre which he used as a recruiting tool
  - Found his Civil War diary that was published in book form

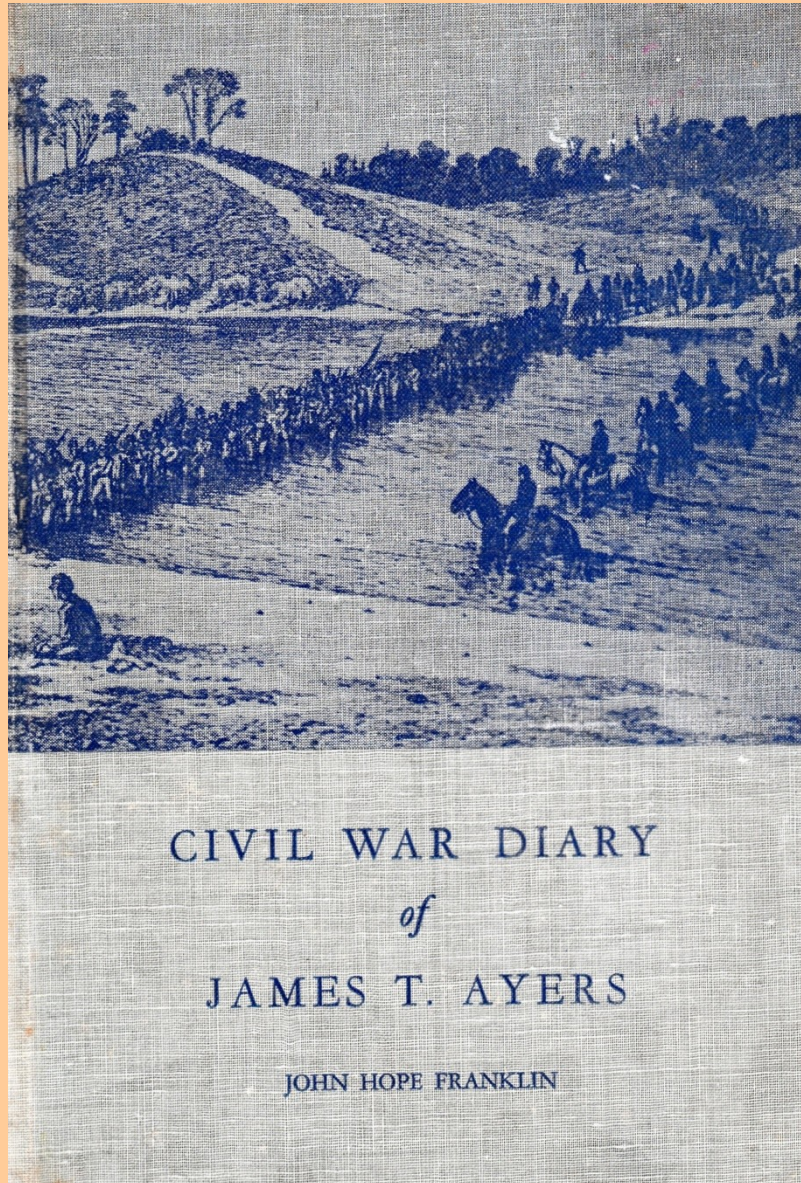
# Fairbury in the Civil War



Massacre at Fort Pillow



# Fairbury in the Civil War



# Fairbury in the Civil War

*Load up your guns My brave old Chums  
We'll Charge there Ranks once more  
Fort Pillow, Oh the murdered groans  
We will avenge your gore*

*Come my brave boys  
Load up your guns  
Gird on your glittering steel,  
And if we overtake the hounds*

*Fort Pillow they shall feel.  
Charge boys Charge, Clean out their Ranks  
Give them your Cold steel  
From Center to Extended flank  
Make them Fort Pillow feel.*

Recruiting Poem by Fairbury Union Recruiter James T. Ayers

# Fairbury in the Civil War

Rather than intimidate blacks and force a reduction in recruitment, the Fort Pillow Massacre, and other incidents where black troops were unjustly killed, had the opposite impact as it appeared to motivate African-Americans to come forward and see the war to its completion.

The determination of Forrest and the Confederate government to intimidate blacks through threats of re-enslavement and death was a singular failure. The nearly 180,000 African-American volunteers was a testament to that failure.

# Fairbury in the Civil War

James T. Ayers was a poet.

He got leave because he was sick and his daughter was having a baby. He went from the War in Chattanooga to Fairbury.

“Nov. 26th A. D. 1864 while at my Daughters who is lying at the Point of Death. God be merciful to us spare her Life if it is thy will, But if she must Dy Lord Save her in thy Kingdom.”

WHERE IS GOD IDE LIKE TO KNO  
(Where is God Ide like to kno)  
If he's here in this world of wo  
If Earth Contains Gods presence why  
Do men shed each others Blood and Dy  
Surely Gods presence is everwhare  
His works and wisdom this declare  
Mans the monster, not God  
Our hands are swift to shed mans blood  
Gods will to men is Joy and Peace  
Its Gods Good pleasure Strife Should cease  
And when we fall at Jesus feet  
War will end and Peace be Sweet.  
Lord send the welcome tidings down  
Dispatch A herald newly Crownd  
To Sound the news from shore to Shore  
That war has ceased to Rise no more.

My Prayer Oh Lord my God Shall be  
That all mankind may be set free  
Set free from Tyrannyes Rod  
Made free in Christ to Live with God.

Was his poem successful??



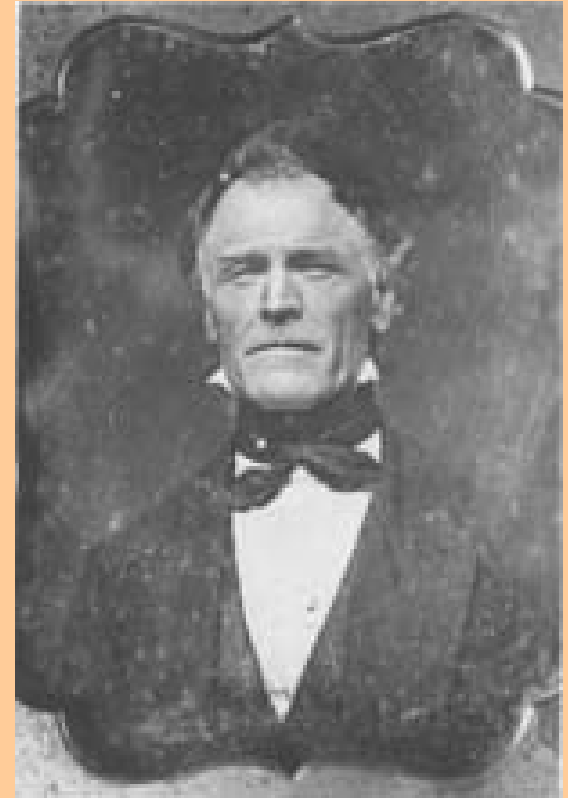
# Fairbury in the Civil War

## The Fate of Daughter Sarah and Grand-Daughter Harriet

Using Ancestry.com, the author found that daughter Sarah Elizabeth Ayers - Warrick did survive the birth of her daughter Harriet.

Sarah's husband, John Warrick died August 6, 1871. She then married Nathan Hinshaw.

Sarah died May 22, 1880, in Anchor, Illinois. Grand-Daughter Harriet Lynch Warrick died in 1937 in Michigan.



James T. Ayers

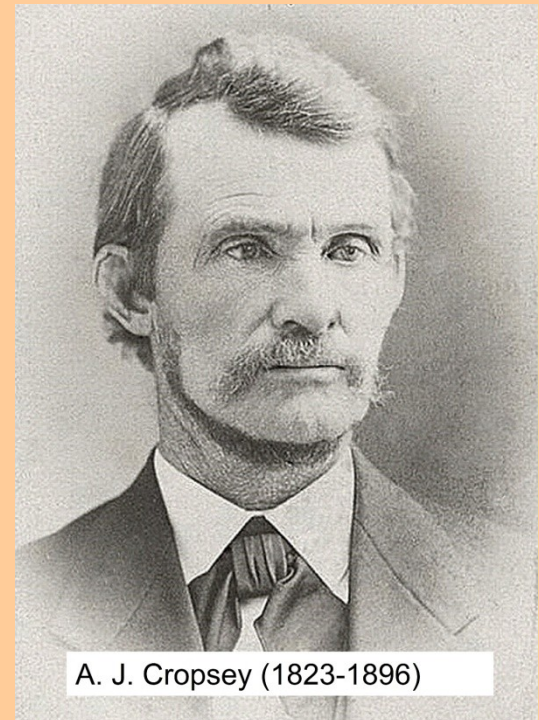
Contact from 3<sup>rd</sup> Great-Grandson  
March 2019



# Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War

- A.J. Cropsey

- pioneer farmer in Cropsey
- Cropsey township and city of Cropsey named after him
- was elected to state Republican Convention in Decatur in 1860
  - probably met Abe Lincoln at this convention
- helped organize and then led the 129th Infantry Company E
- Went to Lincoln, Nebraska after the war
  - helped develop the town through real estate deals
  - built a mansion in Lincoln
- went broke a couple of times
- died and is buried in Ogden, Utah
- his mansion was torn down, and current Nebraska Governor's mansion sets on the same foundation as his old mansion

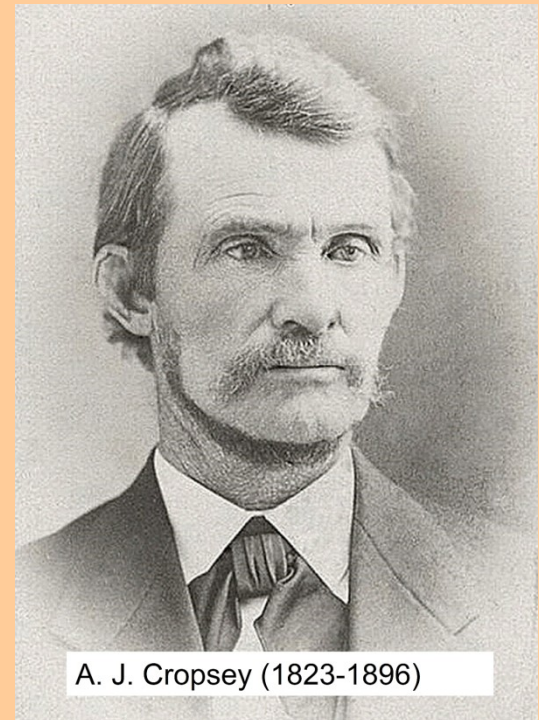


A. J. Cropsey (1823-1896)

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A. J. Cropsey (1823-1896)

# Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War

- A story from the 1878 History book.....
  - As a trophy of the war we find Mr. Greenbaum carrying back from Richmond to Yankeedom a bride.
  - Miss Henrietta Kayton, daughter of Henry and Caroline Kayton, residents of Baltimore, formerly of Norfolk.
  - The marriage was celebrated in Richmond.
  - Must have gotten along pretty well, they had 6 children!

# Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War

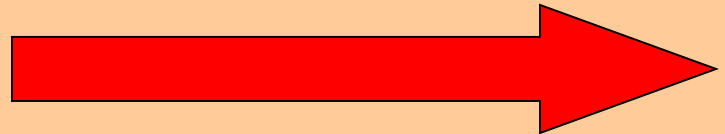
- **Biggest challenge in writing the book**

- Fairbury was a "boom town" after the Civil War
- population soared from only 262 in 1860 to 2500 in just 20 years after the war.
- Many of the men that moved to Fairbury after the Civil War served in other Illinois units, or for other states.
- No way to identify all of these Civil War veterans that moved to Fairbury after the war

# Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War

- When writing the book, I wanted at least one photo of veteran who lived in Fairbury before the war
- At that time, was unable to find any photos of Fairbury Civil War soldiers in their uniforms
  - asked on Fairbury history Facebook page, almost 2,000 members
  - with over 300 serving, you would think there is a uniform or picture
  - but none were found

**After the  
book was  
published**



# Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War



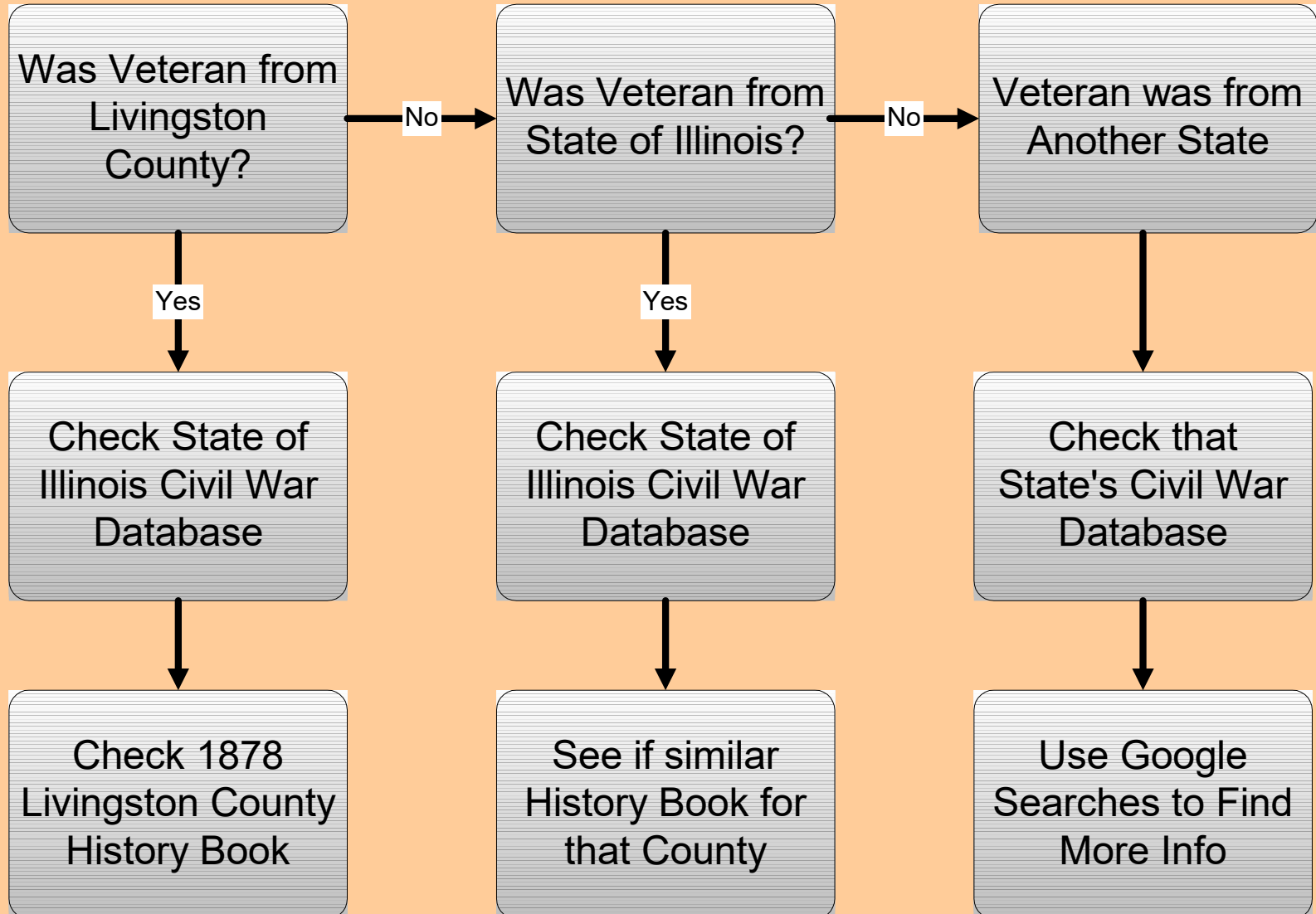
John Kring Jr.  
Fairbury Blade newspaper



Christopher Columbus Pogue  
Found on Ancestry.com & Internet



# How to Check on Your Relative





# Summary

- Was a challenging project
- Involved over 300 different veteran names
- Hopefully, this book will help future historians and genealogists easily identify the role of Fairbury veterans who served in the Civil War.
- Other people can use same process to find Livingston County veterans.

## Fairbury, Illinois, in the Civil War

Dale C. Maley



# Questions?